

Claims 1-3 (cancelled)

Claim 4. (currently amended) Footwear comprising a sole, a toe cap, and an upper having a unitary one piece molded metatarsal guard therein for transmitting a load to the sole, said metatarsal guard having no space [slits] therein for facilitating flexion and comprising a convex arch portion over the wearer's instep; a lip integrally molded with said arch portion and overlying the toe cap; and wherein said lip does not bear against the sole when a load is applied to the metatarsal guard and only a single concave right support leg and only a single concave left support leg overlying the sole, said support legs integrally molded with the convex arch portion and extending on opposite sides of the wearer's foot and bearing against the sole when a load is applied to the metatarsal guard, said convex arch portion having a section rearward of the support legs which does not bear against the sole.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A unitary one piece molded metatarsal guard as recited in claim 4, wherein the convex arch portion and concave right and left support legs are solid members without any space [slits] therein for facilitating flexion.

Claim 6. (previously presented) A unitary one piece molded metatarsal guard as recited in claim 4, wherein the concave right and left support legs are of less width than the convex arch portion.

Claim 7. (previously presented) A unitary one piece molded metatarsal guard as recited in claim 4, wherein the lip is cemented to the toe cap.